

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL MEETINGS FOR SCIENTIFIC BUSINESS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

January 18, 1898.

Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1897 :—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December was 79, of which 45 were by presentation, 18 by purchase, 15 were received on deposit, and one was born in the Menagerie. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 154.

Amongst these attention may be called to :—

1. Two White-naped Weasels (*Pœcilogale albinucha*)¹ from Natal, presented by Mr. William Champion, F.Z.S., Dec. 1st. This curiously marked Weasel, which much resembles a Zorilla in its markings (see P. Z. S. 1864, p. 69, pl. x.), is new to the Collection.

2. A specimen of an apparently new species of Wild Cat from Foochow, China, presented by Messrs. Rickett and J. La Touche of that Port, and received December 6th, for which I propose to adopt (at all events for the present) Mr. La Touche's suggested

¹ Cf. Thomas, Ann. N. H. (5) xi. p. 370 (1883).

name of *Felis dominicanorum*, after the Dominican Monks from whom he received the specimen.

I exhibit a coloured drawing by Mr. Smit of this animal (Plate I.), and read an extract from a letter of Mr. La Touche's to Mr. Thomas relating to it (dated Foochow, 10. viii. 97):—

“I have lately acquired a wild cat which I suspect to be new. This cat was obtained at Kuatun last winter, and sold to one of the Spanish Missionaries, who kept it for several months and who eventually sent it to me. It would appear to resemble *Felis temmincki* of India, but differs in some ways so far as I can see. The animal is of somewhat cross disposition, and won't bear too close inspection. In size it would seem to be about 3 ft. from head to root of tail. The tail is long and of uniform width, perhaps may measure 20 inches. The height at shoulders is quite 18 inches. The marks on the face answer to those given in the description of *F. temmincki*; the chin is white, breast dirty white with not well-marked stripes; ears black outside with paler centres. The general colour is a reddish brown; the hair would appear to be grey at base, brown in the centre, and tipped with grey or whitish, which gives the beast a greyish-brown appearance. The tail is, I believe, darker at tip and buff underneath. The nose is dull red, and the iris a brownish yellow, pupil round or nearly so.”

3. Two White-legged Falconets (*Microhierax melanoleucus*), presented by the same gentleman at the same date, being the first examples of this diminutive Bird of Prey received by the Society.

4. A Lucan's Crested Eagle (*Lophotriorchis lucani*) from West Africa, presented by Dr. H. O. Forbes on December 18th. This rare Bird of Prey, originally based by Messrs. R. B. Sharpe and A. Bouvier (Bull. Soc. Zool. France, ii. p. 471, 1877) on an example from French Congoland, is new to the Society's Collection.

5. A young Bear presented by Mr. William Crosley on the 28th December, which I have not been able to determine satisfactorily. As will be seen by its skin which I now exhibit, it does not show the characteristic markings of *Ursus ornatus*, the generally known Bear of the South-American Andes, being of a uniform black with a slight greyish-white patch on the throat. It may possibly be the young of a different species from the Colombian Andes, and in such case may be referable to that which I shortly described before this Society in 1868 (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 73, pl. viii.) as *Ursus nasutus*. Mr. Crosley has kindly supplied me with the following note on the exact locality of this specimen, which it is proposed to deposit in the British Museum:—

“The little Bear I sent to you came from the banks of the Simitara, an affluent of the Magdalena on the western side. You will see that this is on the eastern slope of the Central chain of the Andes in their northern extremity.

“Approximately you may fix the position as 7° 30' North latitude and 74° West of Greenwich long., on the meridian of Bogotá more or less.”



J. Smut del. et lith

FELIS DOMINICANORUM.

Martens Bros. imp.